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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/MAG (HARRIS)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TRGY TSPL KNNP TS

SUBJECT: TUNISIA REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR 2008-2010 IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS SEAT

11. (SBU) The GOT has requested USG support for Tunisia's candidacy for a seat at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors for the period 2008-2010. An informal Embassy translation of the Foreign Ministry's diplomatic note is in para 2. The original has been faxed to NEA/MAG. We request instructions on how to reply.

12. (SBU) Begin Text:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs DGOCI/DM No. 0839

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America in Tunis and has the honor to inform the Embassy that Tunisia has decided to present its candidacy for a seat at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, for the period 2008-2010. The elections will take place in Vienna, during the 52nd session of the Agency General Conference, from September 29 to October 3, 2008.

Tunisia has been a member of the Agency since its creation in 1957. It has actively supported the IAEA's continuous efforts, for half a century, to promote technical cooperation, peaceful use of the atom, and nuclear safety.

The predominant role of the Agency in terms of nuclear energy has afforded Tunisia the opportunity to accomplish projects in various fields such as food and nutritional safety, agriculture, medicine and hydrology, thus fulfilling the country's highest priorities in terms of development and utilization of human resources.

Tunisia remains committed to the IAEA's fundamental principles, such as the non proliferation, disarmament and use of atomic energy towards peaceful purposes.

Considering the excellent friendly relationship between our two countries, the Government of the Republic of Tunisia would be grateful to the Government of the United States of America for supporting Tunisia's candidacy.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the United States of America the assurances of its highest consideration.

Tunis, March 19th, 2008.

End Text.

GODEC